

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: CARTELLA, Piero

SERIAL NO.: 10/658,784

ART UNIT: 3612

FILED: September 9, 2003

EXAMINER: Coleta, L.L.

TITLE: STRUCTURE FOR THE FRONT OF A VEHICLE, OF THE TYPE WITH CONTROL OF THE DEFORMATION FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF THE PEDESTRIAN

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 1 - 9 and substitute Claims 10 - 18 therefor as follows:

Claims 1 - 9 (canceled).

10. (new) A structure for a front of a vehicle for safeguard of pedestrians, the structure comprising:

a hood component;

at least one air bag positioned below said hood component, the air bag being expandable in a direction toward an underside of said hood component;

a nose component formed of a soft material, said nose component suitable for affixing to a front of the vehicle;

a pre-assembled frontal module formed of a thermoplastic material, said frontal module comprising:

a hood covering positioned over said hood component;

a bumper covering having an edge connected to said hood covering and extending over said nose component;

a pair of mudguard coverings connected to said hood covering and suitable for extending over left and right mudguards of the vehicle, said pre-assembled module hingedly affixable to the front of the vehicle.

11. (new) The structure of Claim 10, said pre-assembled frontal module being deformable on at least one side thereof, the air bag positioned to raise said frontal module when inflated.

12. (new) The structure of Claim 10, the air bag comprising:

a set of front lateral type air bags positioned adjacent said hood covering; and

a set of vertical lateral type air bags positioned adjacent said pair of mudguard coverings.

13. (new) The structure of Claim 10, said pre-assembled frontal module having a rear at a forward edge of said hood covering, the structure further comprising:

a belt extending over said hood covering;

a pre-tensioner means receiving said belt for maintaining said belt in tension over said hood component; and

a lock means connected to said belt for releasing said belt from said pre-tensioner means.

14. (new) The structure of Claim 10, further comprising:

a crossbeam extending behind said bumper covering, said crossbeam having a dissipater surface at least partially covered by said bumper covering.

15. (new) The structure of Claim 14, further comprising:

a funnel-shaped strut cooperative with said crossbeam.

16. (new) The structure of Claim 10, said bumper covering having openings formed on opposite sides thereof suitable for exposing respective headlights of the vehicle, said bumper covering having an upper part turned so as to extend rearwardly therefrom, said upper part joined to said hood covering.

17. (new) The structure of Claim 10, said hood covering having a rear border suitable for positioning adjacent a base of a windscreen of the vehicle.

18. (new) The structure of Claim 10, each of said pair of mudguard coverings having a wheel arch formed therein and an upper edge joined to a respective side of said hood covering.